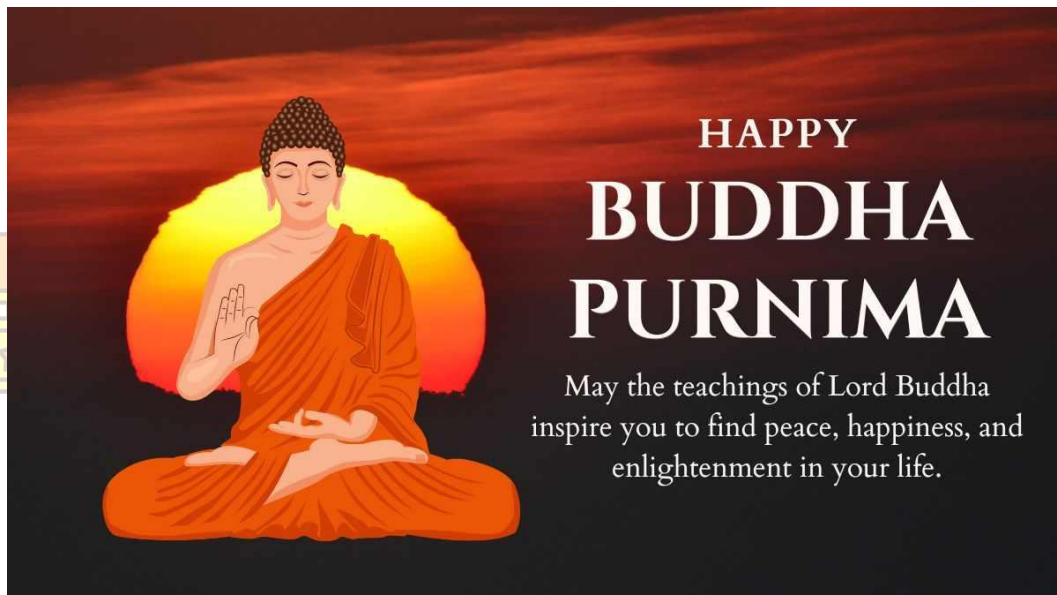


Daily Current Affairs

12 May 2025

Buddha Purnima

- **Buddha Purnima is being celebrated** today. It not only marks the day when Gautam Buddha was born, but also the day when he attained Nirvana under the Mahabodhi tree at Bodh Gaya.



- This day is commemorated by **Buddhists and Hindus all over the world**, and is a major festival in countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Thailand, Tibet, Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. It is also known as Vesak. In 1999, it became an UN-designated day, to acknowledge the contribution of Buddhism to society.
- **It is considered a 'triple-blessed day'** - as Tathagata Gautam Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and Maha Parnirvana. Many devotees visit Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, on this occasion.
- **Bodhi Temple is the location where Lord Buddha** is said to have attained enlightenment.



National Technology Day 2025

- **National Technology Day 2025 holds special importance** due to the successful Pokhran nuclear tests, also known as Operation Shakti, conducted on May 11, 1998, which marked India's emergence as a nuclear power. Since 1999, National Technology Day has been observed with great enthusiasm across the country.



- **Historical Milestones on 11th May 1998:**
- Pokhran-II Nuclear Tests under Operation Shakti, establishing India as a nuclear weapons state.
- First test flight of the indigenously developed "Hansa-3" aircraft at Bengaluru.
- Successful test firing of the Trishul missile, a short-range surface-to-air missile developed by DRDO.



- The day was officially declared by then **Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee** in 1998, and since 1999, it has been celebrated as National Technology Day.
- Organising body: The event is organised by the **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, a statutory body under DST, which promotes the commercialisation of indigenous technologies.
- The Technology Development Board under the Department of Science and Technology, GOI unveiled the official theme for National Technology Day 2025 — **“YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration.”**



- **The word “YANTRA”, drawn from India’s** ancient scientific and cultural traditions, signifies not just mechanical tools but also symbolic power representing:
- Systems thinking
- Synergistic innovation
- Scalable technological solutions
- **The term “Yugantar”, meaning epochal transformation,** reflects India’s transition from technology adoption to global technology leadership, signalling a shift in India's innovation narrative. **Before Operation Shakti**, India’s first nuclear test, Smiling Buddha, was conducted on May 18, 1974, at the same Pokhran site. While it was presented as a peaceful nuclear explosion, it laid the foundation for India’s future in nuclear technology and defence research.

Mother’s Day 2025

- **Mother’s Day is a heartfelt tribute to** the unwavering love, resilience, and dedication of mothers and maternal figures around the world. Celebrated annually on the second Sunday of May in many countries, this day offers an opportunity to express gratitude to those who nurture, guide, and support us unconditionally.
- The modern celebration of **Mother’s Day began in the early 20th century**, primarily due to the **efforts of Anna Jarvis**. She organized the first official celebration in **1908 in Grafton, West Virginia**, to honor her late mother. Her campaign gained national attention and led to a formal recognition of the day.



- Official Recognition
- **In 1914, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson** proclaimed the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day, establishing it as a national holiday dedicated to honoring the role of mothers in American society.



- Ancient Traditions
- Long before the modern version, several ancient cultures celebrated mother goddesses:
- The **Greeks revered Rhea**, the mother of gods.
- The **Romans observed Hilaria, a festival for Cybele**, their mother goddess.
- In 16th-century England, **“Mothering Sunday” began** as a Christian observance when people visited their ‘mother church,’ often spending time with their own mothers.



Kashmir Singh Galwaddi

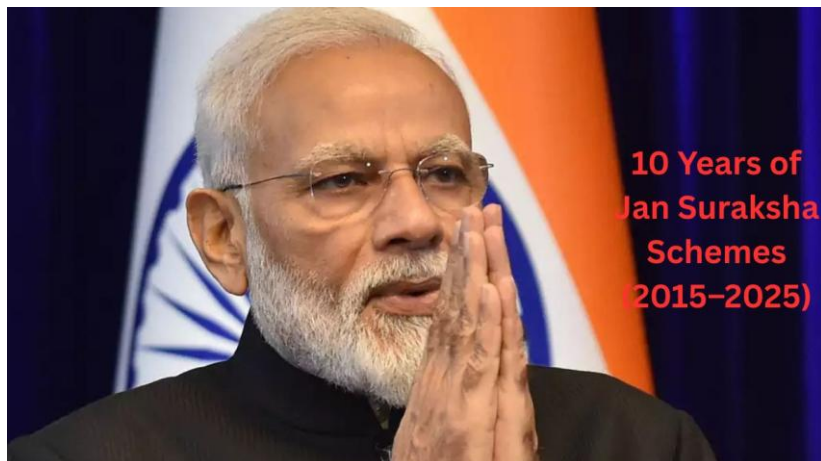
- **National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested Kashmir Singh Galwaddi**, a key Khalistani operative and one of the escapees from the high-profile 2016 Nabha jail break. The arrest was made in Motihari, Bihar, in a joint operation with local police.
- **Kashmir Singh, a resident of Ludhiana, Punjab, had been** on the run since the jailbreak and was closely linked with foreign-based Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda. He was also a central figure in Rinda’s Nepal-based terror network, responsible for providing shelter, logistical support, and terror funding to Khalistani operatives.



- The investigation has revealed how terrorist outfits such as BKL, **Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF)**, and **International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF)** were smuggling arms, explosives, and IEDs from across the border to carry out attacks within India. Singh's role as a key facilitator in this network had led the NIA Special Court to declare him a proclaimed offender.

10 Years Of Jan Suraksha Schemes

- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** : PMJJBY provides life insurance cover for death due to any cause, **offering a sum of Rs. 2 lakh** to the beneficiary's family in the event of the policyholder's death.
- **Eligibility:** Available for individual bank/Post office account holders aged 18-50 years.



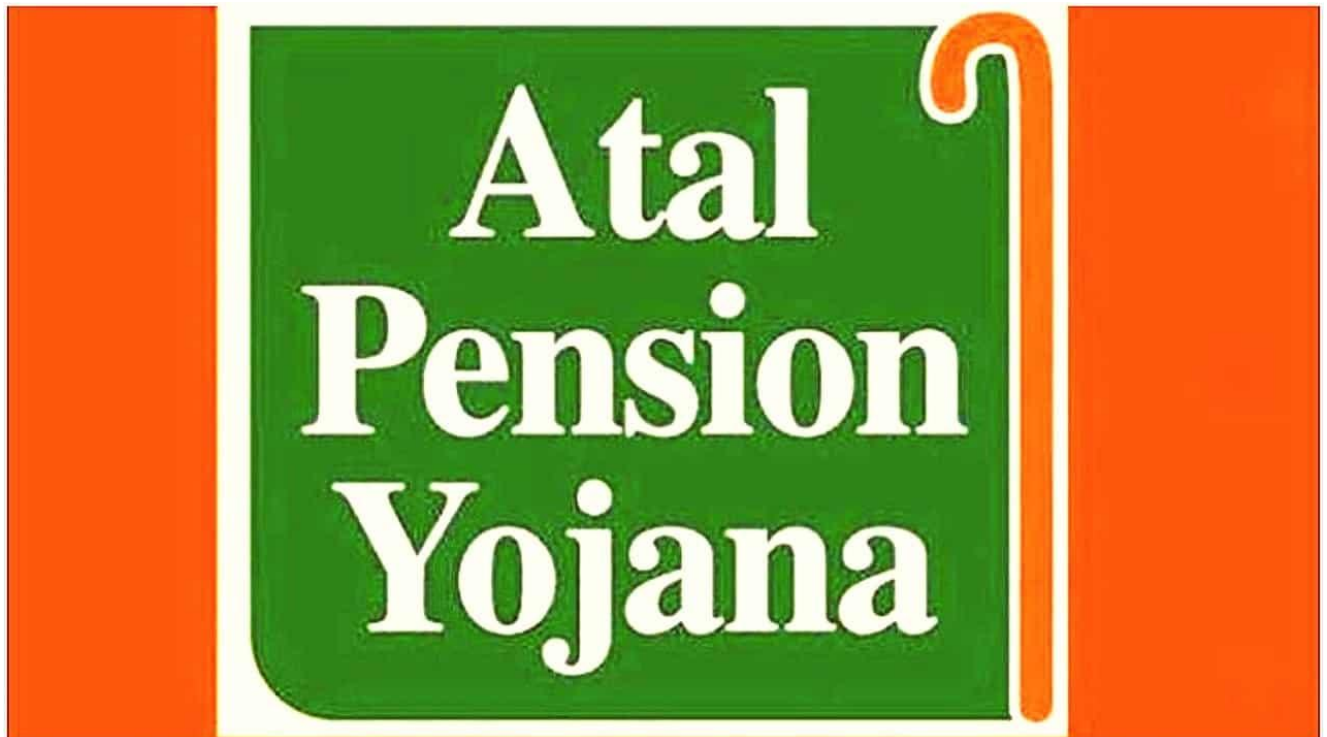
- Premium: The premium is Rs. 436 per annum, or about Rs. 1.19 per day, to be deducted through auto-debit from the policyholder's bank or post office account.
- Achievements
- **As of April 23, 2025, the scheme has recorded 23.63 crore enrollments**, with a total of Rs. 18,397.92 crore paid out for 9,19,896 claims.
- 10.66 crore women have enrolled in PMJJBY, and 7.08 crore enrollments were from PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account holders.
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** : PMSBY aims to provide accidental death and disability cover. In case of accidental death or permanent disability, the **scheme provides a sum of Rs. 2 lakh for death and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability**.
- Eligibility: All bank/Post office account holders aged 18-70 years.
- Premium: The premium for the scheme is extremely low — only Rs. 20 per annum or less than Rs. 2 per month. It is deducted via auto-debit.



- Achievements
- As of April 23, 2025, the scheme has enrolled 51.06 crore individuals, with Rs. 3,121.02 crore paid for 1,57,155 claims.
- 23.87 crore women and 17.12 crore PMJDY account holders are enrolled under this scheme.
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** : APY aims to provide a **pension to individuals, especially from the unorganised sector**, who do not have access to formal pension schemes. Upon reaching 60 years of age, subscribers receive a

guaranteed monthly pension ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000, depending on the contributions made during their working years.

- Eligibility: Open to bank **account holders aged 18-40 years**, non-tax payers, and without a formal pension plan.



- Premium and Contribution: The contributions vary based on the pension amount chosen (Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000). The scheme is designed to offer flexibility in contributions, with options to pay on a monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly basis.
- Achievements
- By April 23, 2025, **more than 7.66 crore individuals have enrolled** in APY.
- **Around 47% of these subscribers are women**, demonstrating significant female participation.

NASA-ISRO Radar Satellite

- **Indian Space Research Organisation chairman Dr. V. Narayanan** said that the NASA-ISRO synthetic approach radar satellite is likely to be launched next month. On the sidelines of the **5th Convocation ceremony** of the Central Agriculture University, Imphal, held at the College of Fisheries at Agartala, he said the **radar satellite has two major payloads** and has a **microwave remote sensing satellite**. He said, one payload has been made by the US and another by

India. Further, he said, **during India's G20 presidency**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that **India would build a G20 satellite**.



- The satellite's function will be to study climate-related activities. The ISRO chief said, **50 percent payload of the G20 satellite will be from India**, and the remaining payload will come from other countries. The satellite will be launched using India's very own launch vehicle.
- After the launch, the data gathered by the satellite will be shared with the G20 countries. Talking about India's upcoming missions and launches, he said on **May 18, the RA-SAT, a C-band synthetic radar satellite**, will be launched by PSLV, and next month, **Gaganyatri will be sent to the International Space Station** to gain some experience.

US Announces Trade Deal With China

- United States announced a **trade deal with China in Geneva, Switzerland**, last night. In a statement released by the White House, the US Secretary of the **Treasury, Scott Bessent**, said the talks with China were very productive and the details of the deal will be shared.
- He also thanked the Swiss government for hosting the talks. Moreover, the US Trade **Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer** said that the United States has a massive 1.2 trillion US Dollar trade deficit, and this deal will help towards resolving that national emergency.



Uttar Pradesh Partners With World Bank

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**, in the presence of World Bank President Ajay Banga, launched two transformative initiatives — **UP AGREES** and **AI Pragya** — aimed at revolutionizing agriculture and promoting digital skill development across the state. These World Bank-supported schemes target the twin goals of enhancing rural productivity and preparing the youth for a digital future, contributing to **UP's vision of becoming a \$1 trillion economy**.



- **UP AGREES (Uttar Pradesh Accelerated Growth through Resilient, Equitable and Sustainable Agriculture)**
- Focus: Agricultural innovation in 28 districts across Bundelkhand and Purvanchal

- Goals : Promote technology-driven farming, Improve agricultural productivity, Empower farmers with climate-resilient practices



- **AI Pragma : Train 10 lakh youth in AI and digital technologies**
- Focus Areas: Government services, education, healthcare, and agriculture
- Goal: Build a robust AI talent base across UP
- Implementation Regions
- **The projects will cover districts including,**
- Basti, Maharajganj, Ballia, Ghazipur, Varanasi, Chandauli, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Kushinagar, Siddharthnagar, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Banda, Chitrakoot, etc.

NALSA Executive Chairperson

- President Droupadi Murmu Appoints Supreme Court Judge, **Justice Surya Kant,** As The Chairman Of **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).**
- This appointment adheres to the convention of appointing the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court to the crucial position of NALSA Executive Chairman.
- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body established under the **Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987.** This organization plays a pivotal role in providing free legal services to the weaker sections of society and aims to organize Lok Adalats for the amicable settlement of disputes.



History of legal aid movement in India

Year	Initiative
1960	Guidelines for legal aid schemes introduced in India
1976	Article 39A incorporated through 42nd Amendment of Constitution
1980	Formation of The Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) under Justice Bhagwati
1987	Enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act , providing a statutory framework for legal aid programs in India
1995	Establishment of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) , the apex body for legal aid coordination in India
1998	Introduction of Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats , offering an alternative dispute resolution mechanism
2000	Implementation of various legal aid initiatives, including legal literacy programs and counselling centres

Key Programmes of NALSA



Legal Aid and assistance

To eligible categories before courts/Tribunals, and assistance through Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics.



Outreach Programmes

To make people aware about their **rights and entitlements and assist** them in actualization of the same under **welfare laws** and schemes of the central and state government.



Lok Adalat and Mediation

To promote Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism to **resolve** pending and pre- **litigation cases**



Victim Compensation Schemes

To facilitate **rehabilitation of Victims of crime by determination** and disbursement of compensation under Victim Compensation Schemes



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When is National Technology Day celebrated in India

- A. May 9
- B. May 11
- C. May 13
- D. May 3

ANSWER: B

2. What was the code name for the nuclear tests conducted in May 1998

- A. Operation Vijay
- B. Operation Shakti
- C. Operation Agni
- D. Mission Vikas

ANSWER: B

3. Under which department does the Technology Development Board function

- A. Ministry of Electronics and IT
- B. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
- C. Department of Science and Technology
- D. NITI Aayog

ANSWER: C

4. What is the theme of National Technology Day 2025

- A. Innovation for a New India
- B. Science for Sustainability
- C. YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration
- D. Digital Bharat: Accelerating Progress

ANSWER: C

5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. Which newspaper won the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025

- A. The Times of India
- B. La Prensa
- C. El Nuevo Diario
- D. Nicaragua Today

ANSWER: B

7. What is the main reason La Prensa received the UNESCO award

- A. Launching a new digital edition
- B. Supporting environmental journalism
- C. Upholding freedom of expression in Nicaragua
- D. Winning a global journalism competition

ANSWER: C

8. What are UP AGREES and AI Pragma aimed at

- A. Developing smart cities
- B. Boosting tourism and culture
- C. Enhancing farm productivity and AI training
- D. Improving primary education

ANSWER: C

9. In which year were the three flagship social security schemes launched

- A. 2010
- B. 2013
- C. 2015
- D. 2017

ANSWER: C

10. Umiam Lake Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: D

11. What is the name of the new section inaugurated at the India Habitat Centre's Library

- A. Gyan Kendra
- B. Bharat Darshan Bhawan
- C. Bharat Bodh Kendra
- D. Indian Civilization Wing

ANSWER: C

12. Under which Act was the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) established?

- A. Indian Penal Code, 1860
- B. Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
- C. Judiciary Reforms Act, 1995
- D. Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976

ANSWER: B

13. Who was appointed as the Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) by President Droupadi Murmu

- A. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- B. Justice Surya Kant
- C. Justice U.U. Lalit
- D. Justice N.V. Ramana

ANSWER: B

14. What is the approximate maximum range of the extended variant of the BrahMos missile?

- A. 150 km
- B. 300 km
- C. 450 km
- D. 800 km

ANSWER: D

15. What does the name "BrahMos" represent

- A. A mythological weapon
- B. The blend of Indian and Russian missile technology
- C. The fusion of names of two rivers: Brahmaputra and Moskva
- D. The combination of Brahma and Moses

ANSWER: C

16. Gabon Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Region

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Australia
- D. Asia

ANSWER: A

17. Where is the new BRAHMOS Manufacturing Centre located

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Pune
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: D

18. What is the purpose of the Haryana Water Resource Atlas 2025

- A. To identify agricultural zones
- B. To monitor and conserve water resources using AI
- C. To map industrial waste zones
- D. To track forest cover

ANSWER: B

19. What is the theme of the 8th UN Global Road Safety Week?

- A. Safety First on Highways
- B. Smart Vehicles for Safe Roads
- C. Make walking and cycling safe
- D. Drive with Care

ANSWER: C

20. Which Among The Following Place Is Not Associated With Jain Temples

- A. Sravanbelgola
- B. Palitana
- C. Khandgiri
- D. Ratnagiri

ANSWER: D